

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-16 remain in the application. Claims 17-20 have been canceled. Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to define the invention more clearly. Claim 5 has been rewritten as an independent claim. All of the claims also have been amended to eliminate the reference numerals. Reference numerals are not required under U.S. patent law and are given no patentable weight. Accordingly, the elimination of the reference numerals is not a narrowing amendment and is not an amendment entered for purposes of patentability.

Claims 1-4 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ichio et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,302,734. The Examiner identified elements of the Ichio et al. reference that were considered to correspond to the claimed invention. The Examiner referred to FIG. 15 of Ichio et al. and referred to the elements 50, 51 as the equivalent of the claimed bite-in portion.

The Examiner will appreciate that the Ichio et al. reference is assigned to the assignee of the subject invention, and the applicant herein is familiar with the teaching of Ichio et al. The Examiner's attention is directed to the paragraph of Ichio et al. beginning at col. 6, line 10. This portion of Ichio et al. explains that the housing 11 is used with two sealing members 50, 51 that "are made of a gel or jelly-like material." The housing 11 has a cover 30 that is closed over sealing member 51 and presses the jelly-like sealing member 51 into the concavity 32 of the cover 30. This closing of the cover 30 causes gaps between the wires 45 and the opening edge portions 20, 34 to be filled with the jelly-like sealing members 50 and 51 along the entire circumference of the

opening edge portions 20, 34 (col. 6, lines 56-63). Thus, the jelly-like sealing materials 50, 51 ooze into spaces between the wires and the rear end of the housing to provide sealing.

The claimed invention has nothing to do with sealing, but rather ensures that a terminal fitting will not shift in a cavity in response to resilient restoring force on a bent wire or in response to external pushing or pulling forces on the wire rearward of the housing (see paragraphs 0003-0005 and 0051-0054). The invention defined by amended claim 1 positively defines the connector as having a housing and a holder extending from the rear end of the housing. A bite-in portion then is defined as being formed integrally with the holder on an inner surface of the wire accommodating space in the holder. This integrally formed bite-in portion projects sufficiently into the wire accommodating space for plastically deforming the wire by biting in a bent portion of the wire. This is very different from Ichio et al. where a jelly-like material 50, 51 must be separate from the housing so that the jelly-like material can ooze into spaced between the wires and the housing. Nothing in the very different Ichio et al. reference would lead the skilled artisan to the invention defined by amended claim 1 or its dependent claims 2-4. As noted above, rejected claims 17 and 18 have been canceled.

Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Ichio et al. as applied to claim 1 considered further in view of Kanagawa. Kanagawa also is assigned to the assignee of the subject invention. This reference was cited primarily for the teaching of a wire that has an outer layer partly removed at a bent portion.

Claim 5 has been rewritten as an independent claim and positively defines the wire and the terminal fitting as being part of the claimed invention. Amended claim 5 includes structural limitations pertaining to the housing, the holder and the bite-in portion that are substantially identical to the limitations of claim 1. Nothing in Kanagawa overcomes the deficiencies of Ichio et al. as described above with respect to the housing, the holder and the bite-in portion integral with the holder. Accordingly, it is submitted that amended independent claim 5 and its dependent claim 6 are not suggested by the combination of Ichio et al. and Kanagawa.

Claims 8 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Tabata. Claim 20 has been canceled. Thus, Tabata is considered only with respect of amended claim 8.

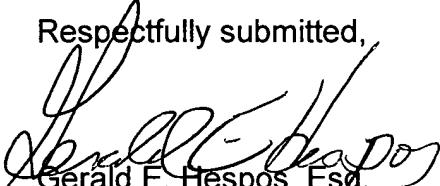
The assignee's Tabata patent shows an assembly with a housing 10 and a wire cover 20 that is mounted on the rear end of the housing 10. The cover 20 has a body 21 and a wire pressing member 22 that is hinged to the wire. The wire pressing member initially is rotated into an open position. The terminated wire is mounted into the housing and initially is bent away from the housing. The wire then is moved between the housing 10 and the body 21 of the cover 20 and a more rearward part of the wire is slid into an opening defined in the cover 20. The wire then is bent 90° and the wire pressing member 22 is closed to hold the wire against lateral movement. FIG. 4 clearly shows that the lower wall 21D of the cover body 21 does not bite into the wire. Thus, a resilient restoring force of the bent wire could cause the terminal fitting to shift in its cavity. Additionally, no part of Tabata has "a locking section formed integrally with the holder" and "projecting sufficiently into the wire accommodating space for

engaging a portion of the wire extending from the bent portion towards a side opposite the terminal fitting for substantially preventing longitudinal displacement of the wire" as defined in amended claim 8. The projections 31A and 31B merely cooperate with the cover 22 to prevent lateral movement of the wire 15 for preventing interference with the jig J. Accordingly, it is submitted that the invention defined by amended claim 8 is not taught or suggested by Tabata.

The applicant and the assignee are pleased to note that claims 10-16 have been allowed. Those claims remain in the application and have been amended only to remove the reference numbers.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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